



## The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

[www.tbfffc.org](http://www.tbfffc.org)

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 07, 2011, 5:30 p.m.**

### **Invited Speaker**

**Logan Valeri**

Logan Valeri, a sixteen year old resident of Brandon, spends most of his vacations fishing in the tailwaters of north central Arkansas. He started out a complete beginner, but now has gained much experience through eight years of such fishing. Logan will talk about the various aspects of trout fishing Arkansas from what to wear to how to land a trout on light tippet. He has learned a great deal about freshwater trout fishing and plans to share it with you during the next meeting.

### **Featured Fly Tyer**

**Logan Valeri-- and You**

Get out your glasses for some tiny trout flies! Logan has had a few years of experience in the fly tying world and wants to divulge some of his secrets to you at the next meeting. To go along with his speech on freshwater trout, Logan will be whipping up some size 18 and 20 midges. Don't worry, he'll throw in a streamer or two to demonstrate some of the larger flies used in the Ozark region. Come to our next meeting for a great talk and tying demo on trout fishing Arkansas.

**Directions to Our Meetings:** **From I-75**--Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left onto Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. **From I-275**--Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park

## SEPTEMBER 2011 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

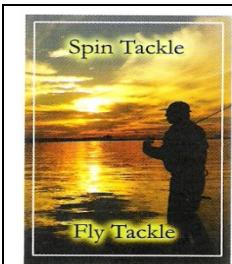
Hello again fellow fly fishers,

**Welcome to September** and hurricane season! Of course, the hurricane season extends from June through November, but September is prime time for them to visit our area. The local waters will begin to cool slowly, and maybe even a few snook will show up locally. The important thing is to get out there, fly fish, catch something, and send your report to **Bob Gaulin**. If you travel out of state to fish, report those results to Bob also, so we can all learn about fun places to visit.

Thanks to **Walt Durkin and Frank Rhodes** for giving us many practical tips when planning a self-guided fishing trip. See page 8 for their sure-fire recipe for tying a deadly bonefish fly.

Be sure to look at all of the activities we have planned for September as well as the rest of 2011. They are listed on page 3. Note in particular the club outing to Chassahowitzka on September 17 with possible overnight stay, and the need for your participation in the Florida Sportsman Fishing and Boat Show, September 24-25.

Tight lines, Dick ☼



### The Fly Guy

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<i>In This Issue:</i>	<i>Page</i>
Monthly Meeting . . . . .	1
President's Message.....	2
TBFFC calendar of events.....	3
Tips for TBFFC, No. 39.....	4
Member Photos.....	5,6
Are Weedless Flies Fishless?.....	7
Roll-Top Fly Tying Desk for Sale.....	7
Fly of the Month.....	8
Fishing Report.....	8
Membership Application, Guides, Casting Coaches, etc.	9

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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 14 at Leroy Selmon's, Tampa

**NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER?** Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to [dmiekka@cs.com](mailto:dmiekka@cs.com)

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## TBFFC EVENTS

### 2010 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for 2011; September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7 **Please watch this space for any changes.**

### CHASSAHOWITZKA OUTING IN SEPTEMBER

**When:** Saturday, September 17

**Where:** A suitable launch point on the Chassahowitzka River—exact location to be determined.

#### How to get there:

Chassahowitzka is easily reached by going north to the end of the Suncoast Parkway toll road (A.K.A. Fl 589), taking a left on US 98, then going straight ahead past U.S. 19, until you arrive at your destination. Detailed maps will be available at our September meeting.

It is possible to drive to the river, fish, and return home on the same day. However, most attendees may wish to stay overnight in order to get an early start on the river. **Robert Fischer** is arranging for accommodations.

Sign up at the September meeting.

### FLORIDA SPORTSMAN SHOW

TBFFC will once again have a booth at the Florida Sportsman Fishing and Boat Show to be held at the State Fairgrounds on **September 24 and 25, 2011**. We need members to be in our booth to greet the public, tell about our club, talk to perspective new members, and (when appropriate) demonstrate fly tying and fly casting. Those who work in the booth will receive free admission to the show, which will include opportunities to see the exhibits and attend seminars as well as to purchase discounted fishing equipment. **Sign up for 3 hours of fun contribution at the September meeting.**

### 2011 MCFF/CCA Fall Fly Fishing Challenge

The Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and the Sarasota Chapter of Coastal Conservation Association will hold their 7th annual Fall Fly Fishing Challenge Oct. 29. Entry fee is \$50 and includes awards BBQ at the Ken Clark Auditorium, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. Call **Rick Grassett** at (941) 923-7799 or **Steve Gibson** at (941) 284-3406 for information

### FUTURE CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

1. Carl Hanson freshwater outing, October

2. Casting and Catching Clinic for members to be hosted by Steve Parker. Date to be determined.
3. Big gun Shootout. November 6 or 20
4. Don Coleman Memorial (joint outing) Dec. 17

### O'HARA EVERGLADES CABIN FOR RENT

Fee is \$85 per night + one-time \$35 cleaning fee. Contact Rick O'Hara at 727-410-0459 or [flyguy47@verizon.net](mailto:flyguy47@verizon.net).

### SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Walter Fuller Recreation Center, 7883 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., St. Pete.

### MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

[www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com](http://www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com)

NOTE: Newer Location for MCFF Club meetings - **Twin Lakes Park**. The entrance to Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota is located on Clark Road, just 1/2 mile east of I-75, on the south (right) side of the road. Contact website above for details and directions.



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## TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 39

### Casting Tip for TBFFC: 22

Our last tip had to do with minimizing false casting. What can we accomplish with false casting? We can dry our dry fly, lengthen our cast, change direction, and get rid of some grass on our fly. The best application is to use false casting as a teaching and learning aid.

Drying our fly and line will improve floatability. We can lengthen our cast by slipping some line on both the forward and backcast to improve the distance of our final delivery. Since our forward cast is most efficient when it is opposite our backcast, changing direction as we false cast will result in a better final delivery of the fly. If we are fishing at 2 o'clock and a fish rises at 10 o'clock, farther away, one or two false casts as we reposition the fly will give us a smooth on target cast. Our next tip will deal with false casting to improve our casting/teaching.

Pat Damico, MCI ☀

### Tips for Attaching Eyes to Baitfish Patterns

Last month I tied a deceiver with a stick on eye. I'd like to clarify attaching eyes to all flies and making them more durable.

The Night Deceiver had a stick on 2-D prismatic silver eye. Generally when I epoxy the head on the fly, I brush a bit of epoxy across the leading edge of the eye to firmly attach it to the fly. Most of you, however, don't epoxy the heads on your flies. Never fear. There are methods of making them permanent fixtures of your flies.

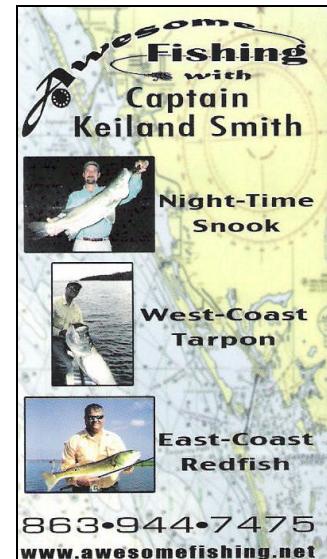
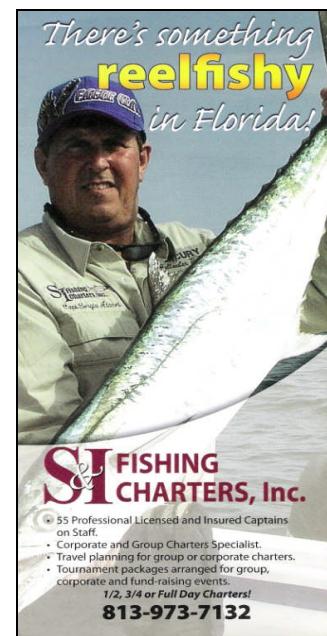
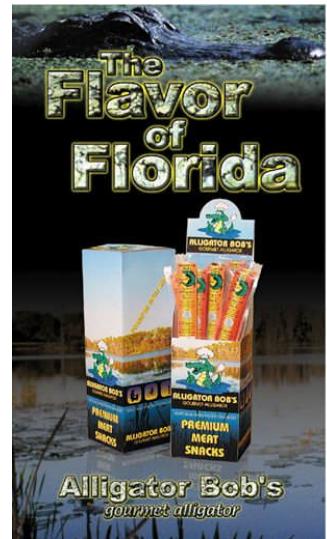
The sticky back to most 2-D and 3-D fly eyes is wimpy stuff. As you may already know I use Fletch-Tite to attach 3-D eyes to my Enrico style flies. It works very well. 2-D eyes are trickier to make stick. The solvents found in most head cements actually dissolve the glue on the eyes. Loon makes a water based polyurethane cement called Hard Head which is really great stuff.

Attach the 2-D eye to the fly the best you can. Over-coat the eye with Hard Head a couple of times and you're set. They don't come off. There is a small brush built into the jar lid which is the perfect size.

This stuff works like epoxy on your fly heads as well. Tired of chipping the painted eyes on your Clouser Minnows? Brush Hard Head over the paint—it chip proofs painted eyes and gives the 3-D dimension.

Be sure to shake this cement up well. There is a large amount of solids in it which give it the strength. Too thick? Add a drop or two of Vodka to thin it out (not water).

Craig Smothers ☀



Member Photos, September 2011

**Layne "Smitty" Smith** puts the finishing touch on one of his "White Widow" flies while being observed by **John Nelson** during our July meeting. The inset photo shows another view of this deadly fly.

Photos by Nanette O'Hara



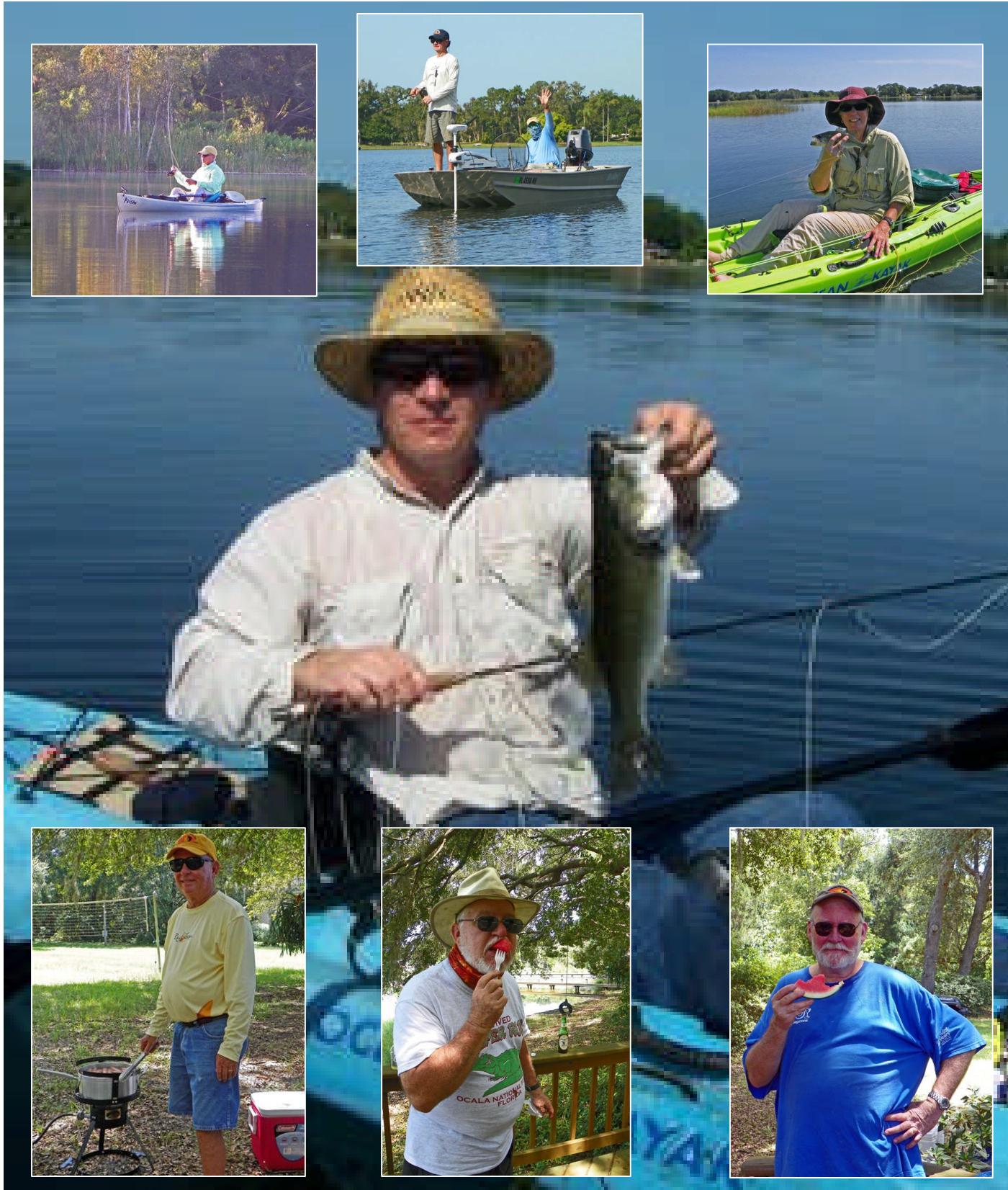
**Bill Kalbas, (L)** and **Frank Rhodes (R,** with guide **John Faris**) display trout they caught on a Holsten River outing with the Carolina Fly Fishing club



**Denise Bruner** holds one of the many Smallmouth Bass she caught while fishing with poppers on the Pigeon River In Tennessee during early August.



## Member Photos, continued



**Jeff Janecek** took center stage at the John Millns outing on Lake Calm when he supplied everybody with a selection of his famous hand-tied flies, then proceeded to catch the most bass. Inset photos show **Rick O'Hara** (top left), **Robert Fischer** and **Lance Pocock** (top middle) and **Nanette O'Hara** (top right) in their respective fishing vehicles, and volunteer cook **Bob Gaulin** preparing hot dogs (bottom left) after which **Alligator Bob**, and **David Mullins** sampled the watermelon. (photos by O'Hara)

## ARE WEEDLESS FLIES FISHLESS?

By Capt Pat Damico

*Reprinted from the August 2011 issue of Onshore Offshore Magazine*

**O**ut in the Gulf, a weed line can be a great opportunity to find a variety of gamefish but in shallow 'water, weeds can be a real nuisance, especially when you are fly-fishing. The 'dog clays of summer,' bring weeds and floating grass that can make a day of fishing very trying. Recently I was out with a friend and we fished the early stages of an incoming tide where redfish were mixed with mullet in very skinny grass covered water. My friend's Exude tail on a light jig easily slid thru the grass as the sides of the plastic bait protected the hook, which rode point up. A Texas rigged Slug-type bait is also very weedless. Johnson silver minnows with a built in weed guard could also be used in this instance to avoid constant Snags and fouling. When fly-fishing, do we have any similar options to make life easier for us during the summer months?

I love to fish decks close to the passes, especially at night, for a variety of gamefish. When the wind is blowing, which is most of the time, docks on the windward side always have weeds stacked against the shoreline. Snook can be seen in and around the weeds but a cast with most flies will foul when stripped only a few feet. These fish will never show interest in a hook draped with "greens." One option available to us is to use a surface offering made of spun deer hair, like a Dahlberg Diver that is designed to ride with the hook point up, or where the deer hair is not trimmed near the hook point. If you happen to have your fly land on the dock or drape over one of the lines on the dock it will not hook on if gently teased past the obstruction. Mangrove shorelines require accurate casting to get at snook and reds that love to hide under the overhanging branches. An exposed hook will snag and require moving the boat to the snag to free it, ruining this whole area. Vertical deer hair will protect the hook but the soft texture will compress when a fish engulfs the fly. When fishing for Largemouth Bass with flies, a deer hair mouse designed like this is very effective around lily pads and thick grass.

Bendback fly designs are very weedless, especially when a stiff material is used to cover the hook point and they are dressed a little on the heavy side. I often use a combination of synthetic and natural deer hair for this application. Using light wire hooks without additional weight can also help.

Monofilament weed guards have been used for many years and have many designs. Mason is a good material for this purpose as it is stiffer than most leader material. Most tackle shops have it in small spools.

Fifteen to thirty pound test will suit most situations depending on hook size. A single or double strand tied at the bend of the hook when the fly is first started is brought to the eye of the hook and secured as a last step before finishing the head. The "loop" that is left around the hook point protects it. Monofilament tied at right angles to the hook near the eye is frequently used in single or double strands. The tying thread is wrapped behind to keep it in position before the head is completed. This last method is my least favorite.

A better venation of this t\$ One that Lefty Kreh prefers and uses almost exclusively.. Instead of plain mono, he used nylon-coated wire, the type used to make bite guards or Wire leaders for toothy predators. Berkley makes a product, Steelton, in thirty-pound test,

which I use for weed guards attached to the head of the fly. A piece is cut from the thirty-foot spool that is long enough to cover the hook point. This piece is attached as the head is completed. Flatten the end with small pliers and tie it in place. A few wraps of thread in front of, as well as behind the wire, will secure it. Use head cement, like Dave's Flexament, that will penetrate the thread to really secure the wire to the hook. Cut the end so that it is slightly longer than the hook point and also flatten this end finishing it at right angles to the hook.

Steelton can also be used to make an effective weed guard for hard body poppers. For foam heads, heat a needle and penetrate the body at a forty-five degree angle to the hook. Cement the nylon-covered wire in place with crazy glue or epoxy. Cork or balsa bodies are best prepared with a Dremel or small drill using a bit a little larger than the wire's diameter.

Don't let floating vegetation discourage you from using your fly rod. Morning and evening have many aggressive fish prowling the flats. It's one of the best times for skinny water action. Even if you don't tie your own flies, many of the above applications can be added to your favorite finished flies in a few minutes. If you need any additional information, feel free to contact me. 

## Roll-Top Fly Tying Desk for Sale

Hey guys and gals,

Finally had some time to get this done. Appreciate any help in finding a new home for this Roll Top Desk.

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Thanks,

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## FLY OF THE MONTH

### Golden Gotcha

As Tied by Walt Durkin



#### Materials:

**Hook:** Size 4 saltwater hook

**Thread:** White

**Eyes:** Small chrome lead or bead chain

**Tail:** Pearl Krystal Flash

**Body:** Flat gold Mylar

**Wing:** White Craft fur and pearl Krystal Flash

#### Tying Instructions:

**Step 1)** Insert hook in vice, bend down barb with pliers, and sharpen. Cover the entire hook shank with a foundation of thread. Tie in the lead or bead-chain eyes behind the hook eye (leaving enough room to build up the head).

**Step 2)** Cut about 10 short pieces of Krystal Flash and tie them in at the back of the hook as a tail. The tail should extend about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond the bend of the hook.

**Step 3)** Cut a 6 inch piece of flat gold Mylar and attach it at the tie-in point of the tail. Advance the thread to just behind the eyes. Tightly wrap the Mylar forward to the eyes and secure with tying thread and trim off excess.

**Step 4)** Invert the hook in your vice. Tie in 8-10 strands of pearl Krystal Flash as an underwing extending to the end of the tail. Cut a small bunch of white Craft Fur (a.k.a. Fly Fur) and tie in wing so it extends to about the end of the tail. Top with 2-3 more strands of pearl Krystal Flash also extending to end of tail.

**Step 5)** Build up the head with wraps of thread in front of the eyes, whip finish and secure with head cement.

This is a variation the original time-tested "Gotcha" recipe, one of the most effective and most frequently used patterns for Acklins. Effective variations include substituting brown or orange Craft Fur and/or gold Krystal Flash in the wing. Gotcha's are tied most frequently on #4 hooks, but #2's, #6's and even #8's are used depending on water depth. Gotchas are most frequently tied with medium size bead-chain eyes, but can be tied with large bead-chain or even chrome lead eyes for deep water, or with plastic or mono eyes or "blind" (without any eyes) for skinny water or tailing fish. ☀️

## Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

SEPTEMBER 2011

Another hot month and the fish were not cooperating very much. A few of you ventured the heat and here are the results.

**John Cornacchia** and **Nick Colantonio** fished the Good News River in Alaska the latter part of July. King salmon were running and they were caught to 40 inches, one with a girth of 26 inches at about 35 lbs. Chum salmon and Dolly Vardens provided a lot of additional action.

**Neil Taylor** (The Kayak Guide) report his fly fishing charters were catching trout and flounder. Catching red fish on fly has been tough. His client Jason did catch a 23 inch trout on a white clouser. He then hooked on to seven flounders by using a weighted fly. All were legal size.

My buddy from Nova Scotia, **Sam Bowers** sent two pictures of nice small mouth bass caught in a river by his camp.

**Lynn Skipper** fishing with **Capt John Hand** at an unknown location happened on a nice large pod of tarpon. He estimated the number of tarpon rolling and gulping to be 12 to 15. Skipper made a cast to the left at one tarpon just then two more rolled directly in front of him. He made a successful roll cast to follow the line of their bubbles and let his black and purple fly settle. Short 2 inch strips and then the line became tight as the fish started to swim away with his fly. Strip-strike and 25 minutes later he got the fish to the boat for the third time. Capt John reached and caught the fish by the lower lip to remove the fly. As he did, the fish spooked, threw the hook into John's hand and swam away. This was Lynn's FIRST Tarpon on fly and John estimated it to be between 70 and 80 pounds. Good job Lynn.

Thanks guys.

Tight Lines,  
Bob Gaulin

[Rigaulin@yahoo.com](mailto:Rigaulin@yahoo.com) 813-782-8605



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**TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost, plus enriching experiences.**

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- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
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### **Fly Casting Coaches**

Novice or advanced caster, one of the following coaches can assist you with your casting. Contact one convenient to your location to arrange a casting session.

#### **Dade City,**

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#### **South Tampa**

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#### **Brandon**

Neil Sperling.....813-655-5627

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Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605

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#### **Saint Petersburg**

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#### **Polk County**

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### **2011 member application Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Hm. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Wk. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check: One Year \_\_\_\_\_ Five Year \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rel: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rel: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rel: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$120.00 Corporate Double Membership

(includes two memberships or family membership and Ad Space in Newsletter)

Five Year Dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club  
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